

WM CETT Newsletter

April 2010

www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett/

Dear Colleagues

As our final year of funding from LSIS comes to an end, we are delighted to announce that WMCETT will be continuing for another year. While our funding has changed and this will restrict what we can do, we are aiming as much as possible to offer the same kind of services we have provided over the past three years.

We have achieved a great deal so far and we are excited by the challenges that lay ahead. We will continue to work with our partners to develop resources, and to run workshops, seminars and

training courses. We are also keen to seek new partners who want to actively work with us on projects.

In the next newsletter we will be outlining what our plans are for the exciting year ahead.

Fergus McKay
Director

Warwickshire Third Sector holds PTLs information event

An event funded by WMCETT and organised with Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA) and Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (WAYC) was held to promote the Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) programme for trainers in the Third Sector.

The event, at the Dunchurch Park Hotel, near Rugby, also relaunched the Coventry and Warwickshire Teacher Support Network. There were approximately 40 delegates from organisations across the county.

Alison Orr (WCAVA) and Tammy Ballard (WAYC) told of the work they were doing in partnership to increase the skills of the training workforce in the sector. This included fast tracking sector trainers to deliver PTLs to 60 trainers in the county this year.

The delegates were given an introduction to WMCETT, and to the workforce reforms agenda, and had presentations from IfL Connections Adviser Anne Schofield, and Fircroft College's Fiona Larden. Fircroft College has run a residential PTLs course for WCAVA and WAYC members, and a fast-track training programme for WCAVA and WAYC trainers has also been run by WMCETT.

There has been a great deal of interest in the subject, and recruitment for a steering group to develop the work of the network is under way.

Margaret Hunter
AVC and ACL Priority Area Co-ordinator



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Teacher training teams help review process

WMCETT's director Fergus McKay and ITT Co-ordinator Vron Leslie have visited several FE colleges in the Midlands as part of a review process to see how the new teaching qualifications are bedding in.

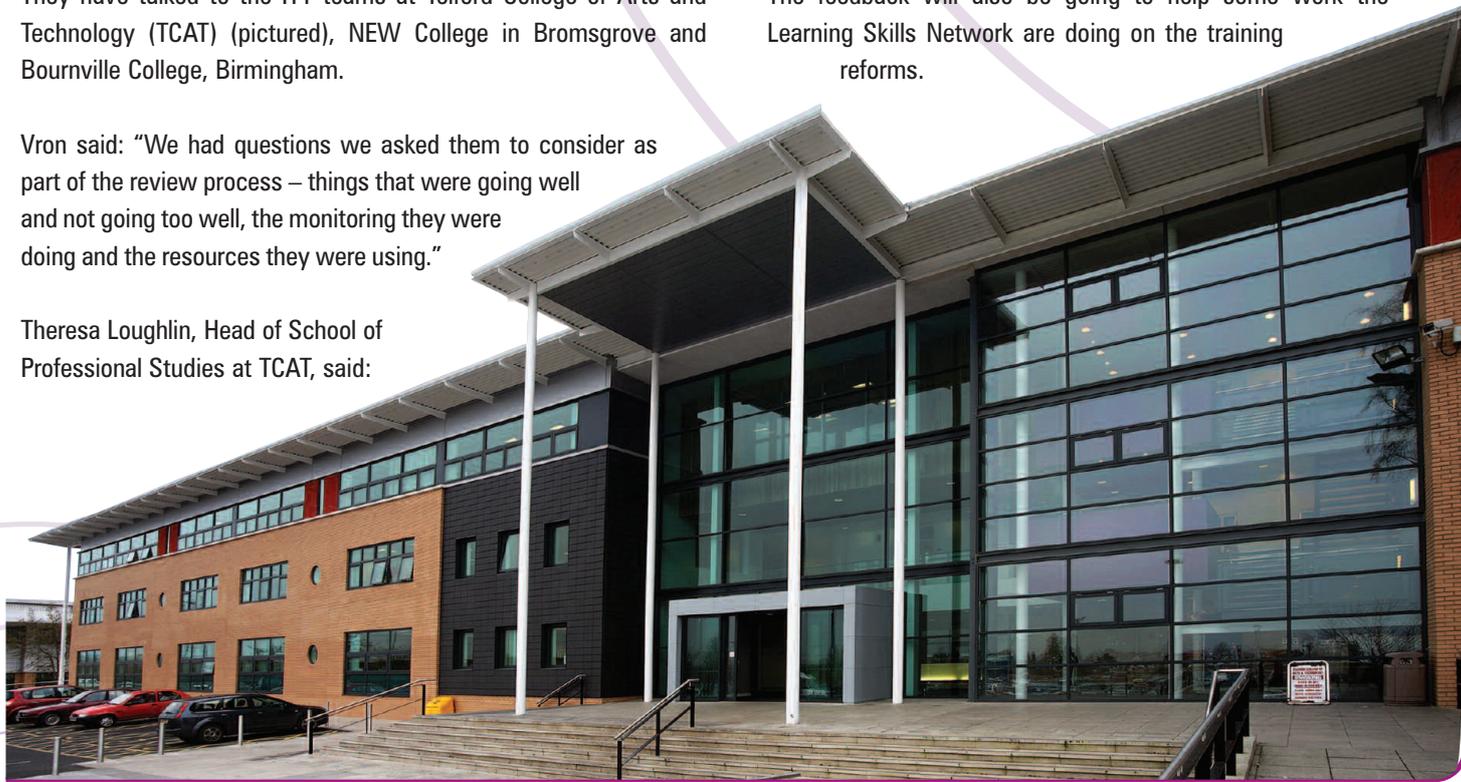
They have talked to the ITT teams at Telford College of Arts and Technology (TCAT) (pictured), NEW College in Bromsgrove and Bournville College, Birmingham.

Vron said: "We had questions we asked them to consider as part of the review process – things that were going well and not going too well, the monitoring they were doing and the resources they were using."

Theresa Loughlin, Head of School of Professional Studies at TCAT, said:

"It was useful to know that because WMCETT has more powers than we do at college level they are taking on board our comments and will lobby and let LLUK know some of the difficulties we are facing."

The feedback will also be going to help some work the Learning Skills Network are doing on the training reforms.



Goodbye to Susan

In January, we said goodbye and a big thank-you to Susan Martin, who was Project Manager for WMCETT from November 2007. Susan has left to take up a new position as CPD Manager at the University of Surrey, and we wish her every success.



Workshops day for Herefordshire and Worcestershire Third Sector ITT Network

A Herefordshire and Worcestershire Initial Teacher Training Network CPD workshop day is being held at the Kindle Centre in Hereford.

The day has been designed to be of interest to Third Sector trainers to help promote the need for continuous development as well as providing specific training. Louise Jones from Worcestershire and Herefordshire Community First is co-ordinating the work.

There are a number of workshops, including Challenging Behaviour, Assessment Methods and Deaf Awareness, plus a Creative Workshop and IfL Connections Adviser Anne Schofield providing information on training and progression in the teaching profession.

Technology is focus for seminar

The second in a series of three professional dialogue seminars taking place across the Midlands turned the focus to new technology in teaching.

The seminars have been organised by the Forum, a partnership established by WMCETT of Higher Education Institutions which offer initial teacher training programmes in the West Midlands. The seminars are attended by representatives of the universities of Wolverhampton, Warwick, Staffordshire, Worcester and Birmingham City, and their partner FE colleges, and the idea is to share good practice and exchange ideas.

At the second seminar, held at the RAF Museum, Cosford, the subject for the first discussion was the current and potential use of mobile technologies to enhance learner engagement and the effectiveness of different technologies in a teaching context.

There was a demonstration of mobile technologies by Allen Crawford-Thomas of RSC-JISC which promotes the innovative use of digital technologies in colleges and universities, and delegates were able to try out different tools and discuss their future practice. The discussion looked at what technologies the teacher educators are using, and the different ways they could be used to enhance the experiences of trainee teachers. Delegates shared information on the

different ways they used cameras, mobile phones, Netbooks, blogs, Webinar, freestanding keyboards, Skype and podcasts in teaching.



The second session looked at the integration of blended learning and the new technologies into curriculum design and the pedagogical framework which underpins it. Some colleges were using a blended approach to DTLLS and delegates shared how they used technology

within programmes, including VLEs for tutorials, blogs, webfolios, discussion forums and online delivery of materials. Questions raised included the importance of face to face group interaction, and the need to ensure online information is actually learned.

Feedback from delegates after the seminar included "excellent opportunities for networking and collegiate discussion", "a lot to think about and experiment with" and that the IT session had "fuelled my enthusiasm".

Reports from the third seminar will appear on the WMCETT website and be reported in the next newsletter.



Profile of David Grayson

David Grayson may not be a familiar name, but you will have read his work on the WMCETT website. David has been summarising the educational news for WMCETT for nearly two years in Sector News, and he has a varied background in education and training which influences him in his choices of what to select.

He looks for any news about post-sixteen education, FE, HE and Sixth Form Colleges as well as information on Diplomas, GCSE and A levels which may be delivered in schools but also in FE. Whilst David reports on HE, he prefers to concentrate on matters which affect teaching.

David trained as a mechanical engineer and his first teaching post was teaching engineering craft students. He became a member of Leicester County Council Training Group and eventually became Deputy Head of a department charged with developing and delivering new full-time courses for 16 year olds who had left schools without qualifications and who could not find work.

David developed the Open Learning and Admissions Centres for Charles Keene College, Leicester, and became Head of Faculty for ABE, ESOL and Special Needs. For eight years he managed and

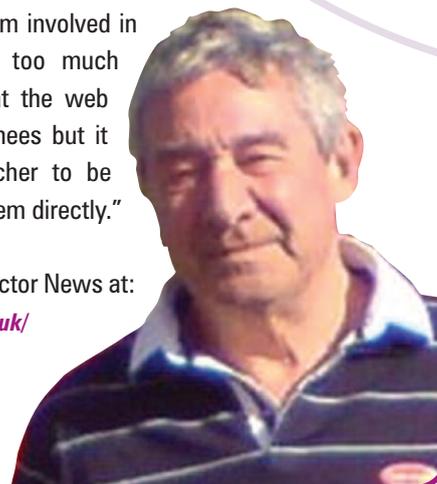
delivered the post-16 teacher training courses for De Montfort University delivered within his college. His post before retiring was as Assistant Director for Widening Participation at Leicester College.

David said: "During my teacher training years I became aware that students were not sufficiently encouraged to be current in their thinking.

"The news summary would have been a quick way of getting them involved in current affairs without too much hard work. I know that the web page is not just for trainees but it does not hurt any teacher to be aware of what affects them directly."

You can see the latest Sector News at:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/cll/othercourses/wmcett/resources/sectornews/>



New on our website

We have uploaded a guide to help practitioners who are carrying out and writing an action research report, written by our ITT priority area co-ordinator Vron Leslie. The guidelines provide a general introduction to planning and writing a report, plus there are links to lots of other suggested sources of help. The resources can be found at:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/cll/othercourses/wmcett/researchprojects/action/resources/>

Advice for work-based trainers

An information, advice and guidance event organised by WMCETT's Work-Based Learning Priority Area Co-ordinator Penny Ottewill was held at CSV Redditch to advise teachers and trainers from the work-based learning sector on the new requirements to record their CPD.

Delegates from five organisations got together for practical assistance on using the IfL's REFLECT portal, and on how to work towards Professional Formation.